

COUNTYWIDE TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM

UPDATE - January, 2003

Seventh tower site in service; passes tests

The seventh Countywide Trunked System tower site went online in the City of Brookfield November 20, 2002. The site was designed primarily to provide improved radio signal coverage to areas of Elm Grove and the City of Brookfield (specifically, Bishops Woods) which previously did not meet the system's signal strength standards. Implementation of the site also benefitted northeastern New Berlin and Butler.

The system manufacturer conducted automated testing throughout the Elm Grove and Bishops Woods areas to verify compliance with system performance standards. A second round of independent field tests were conducted by Evans Associates consultants. Both tests were witnessed by representatives from Elm Grove, Brookfield, and Waukesha County, and both tests confirm that the Elm Grove and Bishops Woods areas now meet or exceed system standards.

Elm Grove, which had deferred full-time trunked system operations until their coverage issues were resolved, has now converted to trunked operation.

Lapham Peak site equipment moved to new tower, facilities

The Lapham Peak tower site in the Town of Delafield was relocated on December 11, 2002 to a new State tower and facility about 1700 feet south of the old location. The site, owned by the State of Wisconsin and utilized at no cost to system users, replaces an older tower and building which will now be demolished. The new site is equipped with a number of technological improvements over the old, temporary site:

- All system hardware, including transmitters, is powered by a large uninterruptible power supply to ensure that electric utility "glitches" will not disrupt communications.
- Improved grounding, lightning and surge suppression provide maximum protection against lightning hits and voltage spikes
- Improved security and fire protection
- Larger transmission lines maximize radio performance
- Superior, fully-automatic HVAC protects equipment and enhances reliability
- New route-redundant, auto-switching T1 lines maximize site uptime.

Area hospital Emergency Departments adopt trunked radio for EMS communications

Elmbrook Memorial Hospital and Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital will be joining Waukesha Memorial by equipping their Emergency Departments with trunked radio base stations. Trunked system EMS users will be capable of communicating with each of these hospitals via individual, dedicated countywide trunked radio talkgroups.

This will effectively permit EMS personnel in the field to remain in contact with the Emergency Department personnel on a countywide basis throughout an emergency event. Previous VHF-based communications were on a shared "party line" channel with all hospitals, and also far more limited signal range in Waukesha County.

2003 user operating costs deferred

Trunked system members were invoiced in early January, 2003 for the following:

- Annual infrastructure payment (for members with Infrastructure Notes)
- Annual radio equipment principal (for members with Radio Equipment Notes)
- Annual radio equipment interest payments (for members with Radio Equipment Notes).

Per Section 2.1 of the Trunked Radio Services Agreement, 2003 operating costs will be based on actual usage. This data is expected to be available later during the first half of this year; therefore, invoicing of operating costs will be deferred until this data becomes available.

In 2003, there will be a reconciliation of each member's proportionate usage for years 1-3 (2000-2002) against their proportionate formula share in the initial cost sharing table. Members with questions about the invoicing are encouraged to contact Sean Sander, the Waukesha County DOA Business Manager, at 262-896-8222.

The Trunked Radio System Update newsletter is distributed by Waukesha County Radio Services, 2120 Davidson Road, Waukesha, WI 53186 (262) 548-7600 fax (262) 548-7855
